

## HERSETH SANDLIN HOSTS SOILS CAUCUS EVENT FEATURING SOUTH DAKOTA WINEMAKER

**Washington, DC**-Rep. Herseth Sandlin recently hosted a Congressional Soils Caucus briefing for Members and Congress and their staff entitled, "The Essence of Earth and Wine:

*Terroir*

," to highlight the importance of geology, soils, and climate on wine characteristics and quality. As co-chair of the Soils Caucus, Rep. Herseth Sandlin invited State Representative Eldon Nygaard with Valiant Vineyards to discuss his wine operation in South Dakota. Eldon spoke about his flavorful

*Wild Grape*

wine, a product of the American grape,

*Vitis riparia*,

discovered on property near the Vermillion River in South Dakota.

"Through my involvement as co-chair of the Soils Caucus, I recognize the role that management of the soil resources plays in wine grape production. Soil is certainly a key ingredient contributing to the overall composition, quality, and flavor of wine," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "Eldon has become a leading advocate of the wine industry, both in South Dakota and nationwide, and I am pleased to have been able to work with him on legislative issues to assist the wine industry, including new and increased funding specialty crops research and certification systems as part of the 2008 Farm Bill."

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Herseht Sandlin, center, with her husband, Bob, and a friend, Bob, at the Soils Caucus event. Herseht Sandlin is a member of the South Dakota Winemakers Association and is also a member of the Soils Caucus. The event was held at the Herseht Sandlin home in Rapid City, South Dakota. The event was a success and was attended by many people. The event was a great opportunity for people to learn about the Soils Caucus and to meet with the members of the Soils Caucus. The event was a great opportunity for people to learn about the Soils Caucus and to meet with the members of the Soils Caucus.